

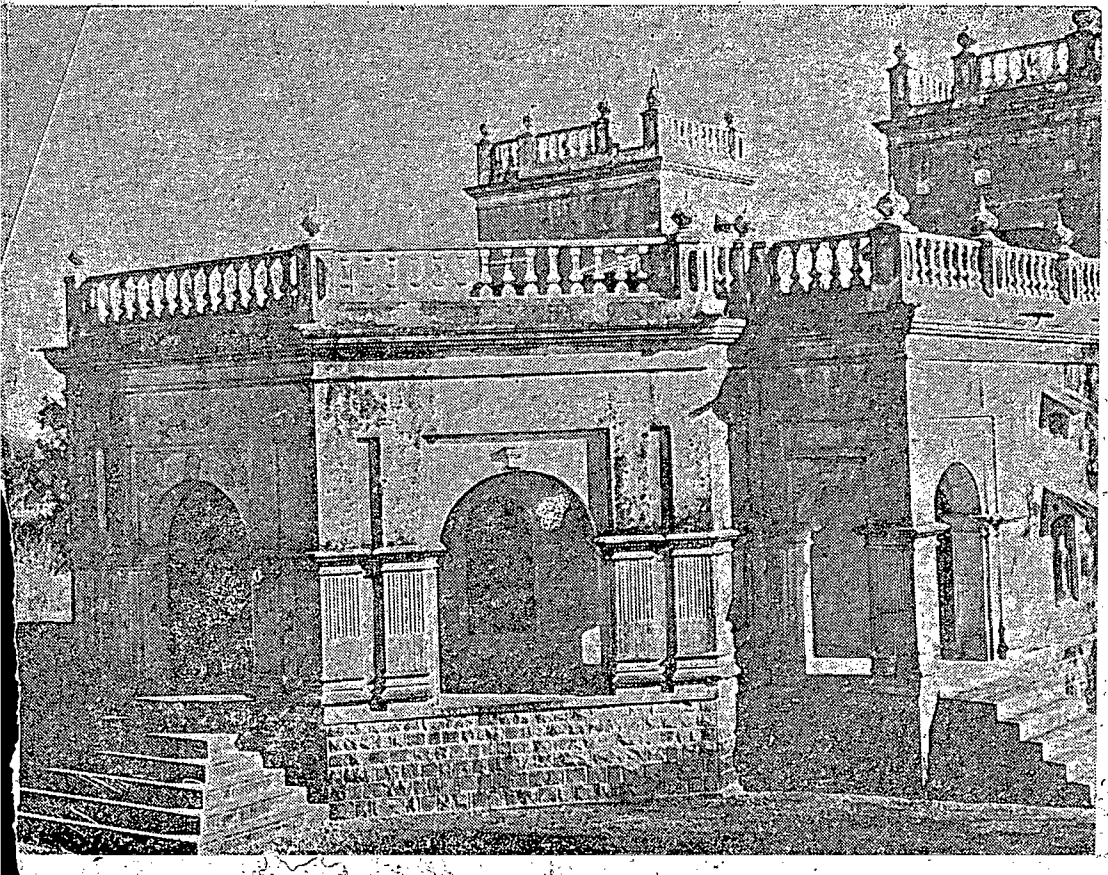
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Shri Natnagar Shodh - Samsthan

Sitamau (Malwa)

93

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SHRI NATNAGAR SHODH - SAMSTHAN

An

Introductory Glimpse

Feb. 1978

SITAMAU, (MALWA)

S I T A M A U

SITAMAU, where Shri Natnagar Shodh-Samsthan is located, was the capital of the erst-while Sitamau State in Western Malwa and after the merger of the State it is now included in the reconstituted Mandsaur District of Madhya Pradesh. Though Sitamau is not a railway station, it is well connected by excellently tarred roads on either side with the Meter and Broad Gauge railway lines of the Western Railways, and motor-buses for Sitamau are readily available at each of its Railway Stations connecting every one of the trains. In the west there is the MANDSAUR Railway Station 33 kms. (20 m.) on the Ajmer-Khandwa Meter Gauge Section. In the East it is directly connected with SUWASRA 37 kms. (23 m.) and SHAMGARH 50 kms. (30 m.) on the Nagda-Kota Section of the Broad Gauge.



Maharaj Kumar Shri Ratan Singh 'Natnagar'
(1808-1864 A. D.)

C O N T E N T S

Shri Natnagar Shodh-Samsthan, Sitamau. 1-10

Appendix No. 1

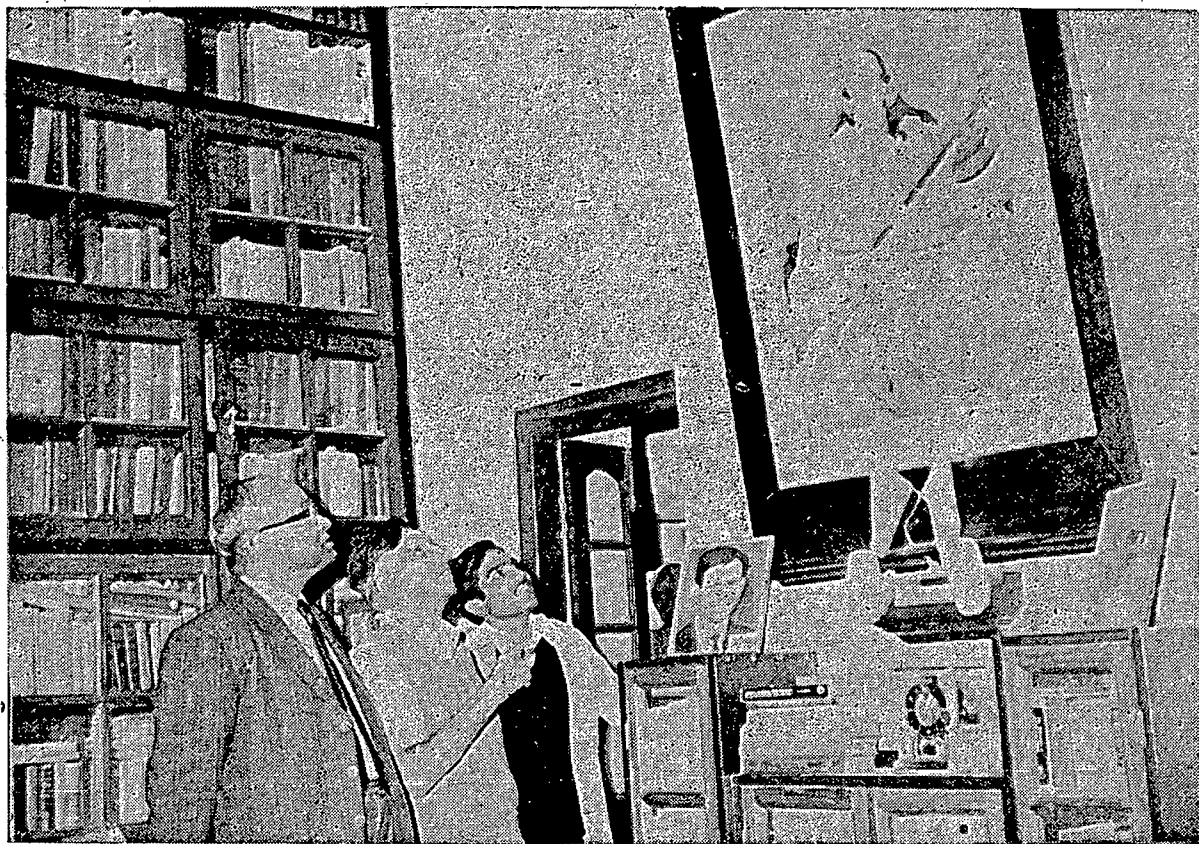
Eminent Historians of India on Shri Raghubir Library,
Sitamau. 11-14

Appendix No. 2

List of some note-worthy historians who utilised Shri
Raghubir Library, Sitamau, for their D. Litt. or Ph. D.
Theses and other Historical works. 15-18

Appendix No. 3

Report of Dr. A. B. Lal, the Chairman, M. P. Uchcha
Shiksha Anudan Ayog, Bhopal, (Feb., 1977). 19-25



Dr. A. B. Lal at the feet of 'Sarswati', the presiding Deity of the Samsthan

SHRI NATNAGAR SHODH-SAMSTHAN, SITAMAU

1. **SHRI NATNAGAR SHODH-SAMSTHAN, SITAMAU, (Malwa-M.P.),** was founded by Dr. Raghbir Singh, M. A., D. Litt., LL.B., at Sitamau on Aug. 14, 1974, with Shri Raghbir Library, Sitamau, and his other collections as its main constituent units then. It was established with a view not only to further enrich, more fully develop, properly equip and duly preserve the collection in Shri Raghbir Library, Sitamau, but more particularly to place the facilities already being made available to the researchers and historians, coming to Sitamau for historical researches and studies, on a permanent, stable and ever-increasing sound footing.
2. Shri Natnagar Shodh-Samsthan, Sitamau, was duly registered under '**Madhya Pradesh Registrickaran Adhiniyam, 1973**' (No. 44 of 1973) at No. 4081 on Jan. 16, 1975. The Madhya Pradesh State Government duly recognised the Samsthan as a **Special Noteworthy Institution** and has been giving it increasing grants-in-aid every year since the year 1975-76. The aims and objects of the **Samsthan** as listed in its **Regulations** are as under.
 - (a) To take over, duly organise, fully enrich and properly preserve '**Shri Raghbir Library**' Sitamau, as a unit of the **Samsthan**;
 - (b) To establish and develop '**Shri Keshav Das Abhilekhagar**' as a unit of the **Samsthan**, and to duly preserve the records, etc. that be collected there-in;

by other allied institutions for fulfilling the objects of the **Samsthan**; and

- (k) To further the advancement of knowledge and learning by means of historical researches and studies at the **Samsthan**.

3. **SHRI RAGHUBIR LIBRARY, SITAMAU**, which is one of the main component units of the Samsthan, was founded in 1936, and has been constantly growing for last forty years and more. During the first twenty years Sir Jadunath Sarkar's directions in this respect were fully followed. The value and importance of this Library to the historians and research scholars working on the Mediaeval Indian History, with special reference to the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries A.D., has long been fully recognised by eminent historians including Sir Jadunath Sarkar, the doyen among the Indian historians. Some important excerpts from the views expressed by him and some other eminent historians about Shri Raghbir Library, its importance and value for the research scholars, are being appended to this note as **Appendix No. 1**.

Since the foundation of the Samsthan, it has been further enriched by important acquisitions of the famous '**Kaviraja Banki Das-Murar Dan Collection**' of Jodhpur, and also many other original mss. or the copies, etc. of many noteworthy private collections in Rajasthan and Malwa. Further efforts in this direction are being made.

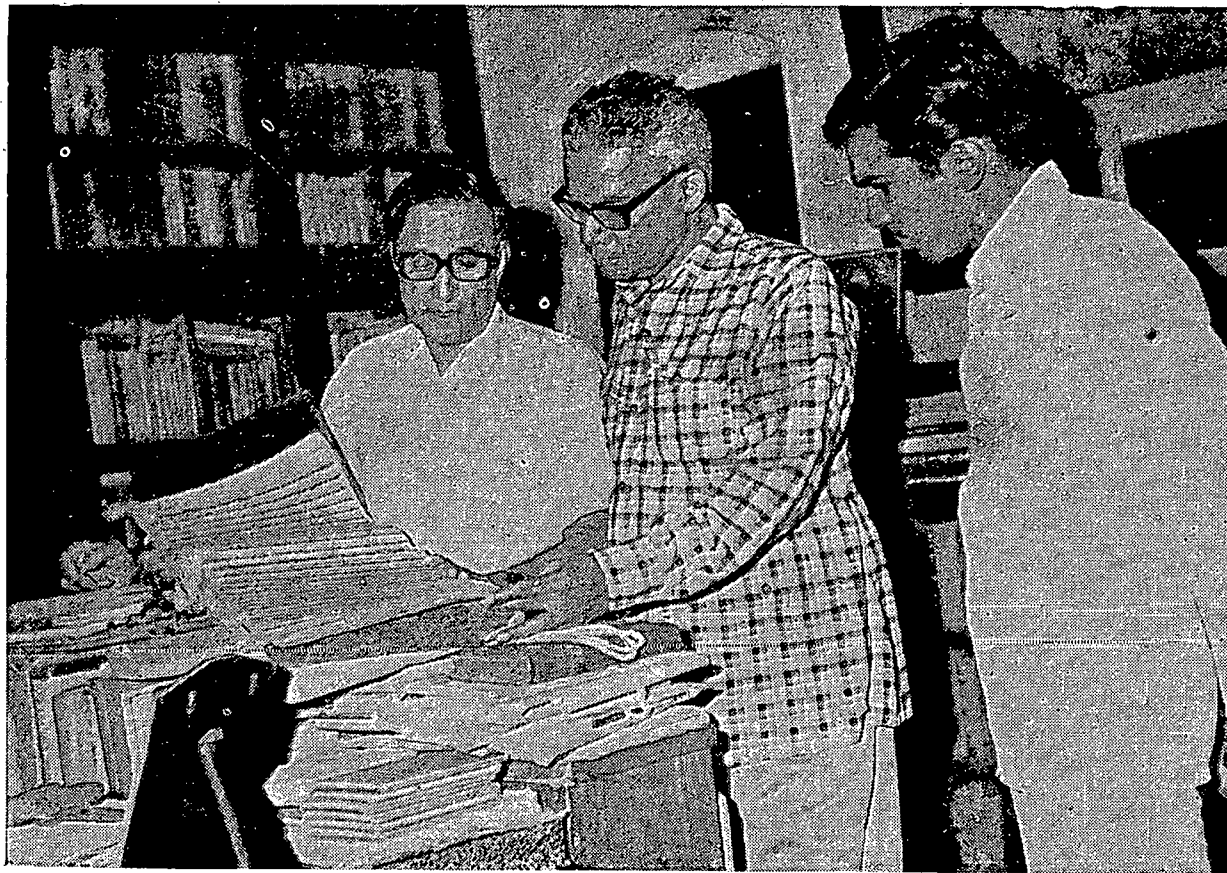
Now Shri Raghbir Library, Sitamau, contains about 18,000 books, of which 12,000 have already been regularly accessioned. The majority of the collection here consists of rare books in Hindi, Marathi and English, mainly of historical interest. There are approximately 1,000 manuscripts in the Library, about 300 of which

are in Rajasthani, 250 in Persian, and about 300 represent the old collection of the Sitamau Ruling House on various subjects including poetry, religion and even astrology. The Library has also transcript copies of about 3,000 letters in Sanskrit, Hindi and Marathi. The Library has the typescript copies of the entire **Gulgule Daftar** of Kota, the transcripts of the **Athale Daftar**, **Mandloi Daftar** of Indore and of the **Dhar Daftar**. Almost the entire source-material in these **Daftars** has not been published and is yet to be fully examined by historians, consequently could not yet be duly utilised by them.

Apart from these books and manuscripts, the Library has about 1,00,000 micro-film openings in its collection, of manuscripts in the British Museum, London, the India Office Library, London, the R.A. Society, London, the Bodleian Library, Oxford, the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, and some other noteworthy collections elsewhere in Europe. There is also a very big collection of photoprints along with their micro-films of about 30,000 Persian documents from the Alienation Office, Poona. The Library has the unique distinction of having the Micro-film reader '**Library Recordak**' which was the first one to be imported in India in 1938 A.D.

The Library also contributes to many important leading research journals and magazines like the Journals of The Royal Asiatic Society, London, Asiatic Society, Calcutta, The Nagari pracharini Sabha, Varanasi, The Islamic Culture, Hyderabad, Bengal Past and present, The Indian Historical Review, the Indian Economic and Social History Review and the like. Files of many important journals in English and Hindi dating since about 1921 are available in the Library. There are complete sets of Proceedings of Indian History Congress, Indian Historical Records Commission, and many other similar regional bodies.

4. **Shri Keshava Das Abhilekhagar, Sitamau**, was founded in Oct. 1976,



Dr. S. N. Prasad, The Director of National Archives, New Delhi,
examining an old Rajasthani Manuscript

when the Samsthan took over the entire State Archives of the former Sitamau State, which were still in the custody of the former Ruling House of the erstwhile Sitamau State. These Sitamau State Archives are almost intact, and save some early Persian **Sanads** or other such documents relating to the Maratha period, they begin about the middle of the XIXth century and go right upto the middle of 1948 A.D., when the said Sitamau State was merged in the successor State of Madhya Bharat (June 30, 1948). Thus the **Abhilekhagar** provides a complete picture of the administrative set up along with the functioning of the State Government of a small full-powered State in this Malwa region during the period of the British domination here. There are contemporary letters from the State **Vakil** of the Sitamau State, posted at Indore, giving contemporary impartial eye-witness' account of the happenings at Indore and other places near-about during the **Great Revolt of 1857**.

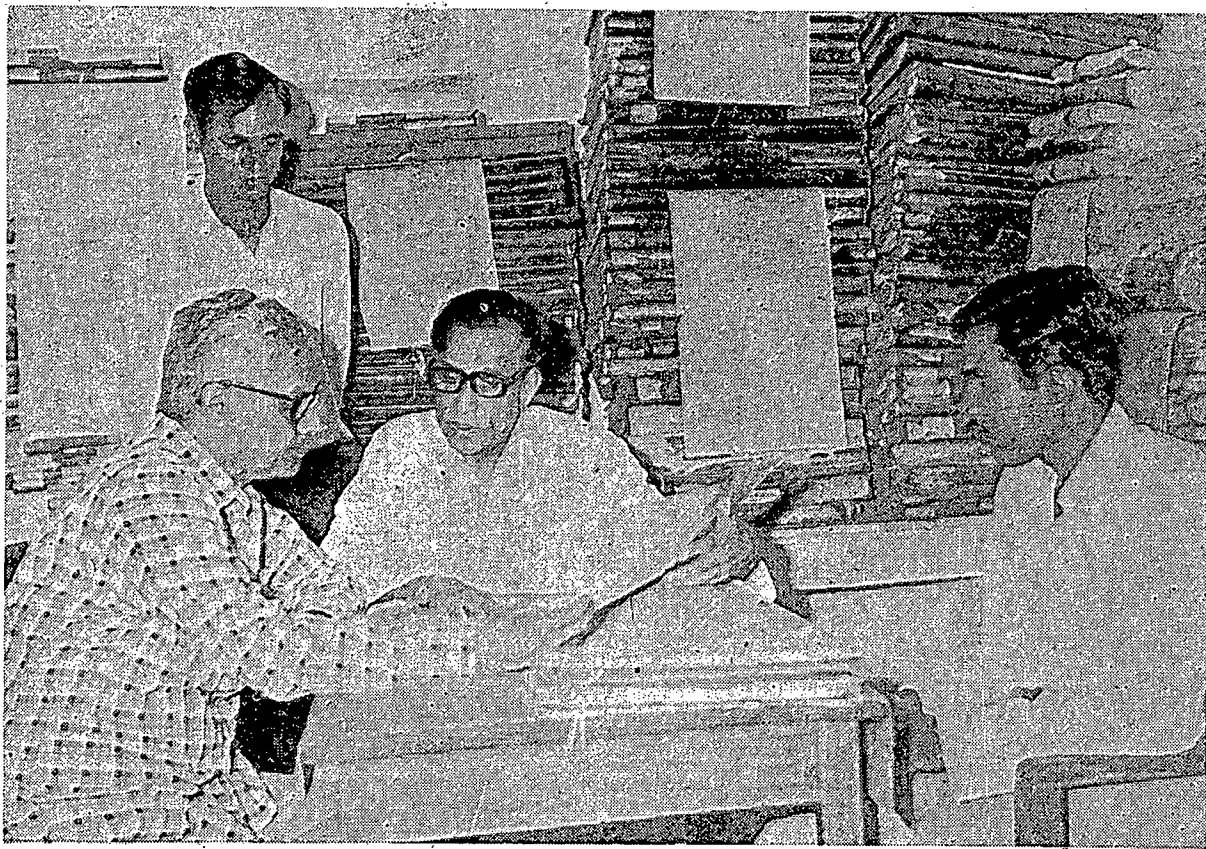
The **Abhilekhagar**, at present located in the old Fort Palace of Sitamau, consists of the entire extant records of the erstwhile Sitamau State, and a number of printed books, reports, gazettes, etc. There are about 700 **bastas** containing thousands of original documents, 3,000 **bahis** and 2,500 old registers. The English Office files of the erstwhile Sitamau State are a distinct entity in themselves, and they contains the correspondence of the Sitamau State carried on in the English Language during last 50 years or so along with the authentic copies of letters sent from Sitamau to other places either as original letters or replies to letters received from elsewhere.

This collection includes Government of India Gazettes, various Administration Reports of many Indian States and State Gazettes of various former Indian States, many relevant Important Parliamentary Reports (Indian Parliament) for 10 years and more, many old magazines from 1920 onwards, and State Gazetteers of various Indian States. Altogether there are about 1,350 printed

books, 300 gazettes of different Indian States and 450 files of the English Office of the Sitamau State. There are also good many confidential papers, like the **Kharitas**, etc. addressed to the Rulers of the Sitamau State, **tanka** receipts and the like which have been carefully preserved in the State Archives and are now located in this **Abhilekhagar**. All this material will definitely prove helpful in reconstructing the political, administrative, social and economic history of the Sitamau State in particular and this Mandsaur region in general.

The **Abhilekhagar** is soon taking over all the files containing the personal correspondence of Dr. Raghubir Singh relating to all his various political activities including the various political moves and efforts relating to the possible future shaping of the Indian States, particularly those of Malwa and adjoining Rajasthan regions in the fateful decade prior to achieving of Independence. Letters to him from Maharaja Sir Ganga Singh (Bikaner), Nawab Hamidullah (Bhopal), Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyer, V. S. Srinivas Sastri, Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru, Dr. K. M. Panikkar, Dr. K. M. Munshi and many others, which throw many sidelights on the trends and political events of that eventful period, are hereafter going to be preserved in this **Abhilekhagar**. All the files relating to the ten year period of his membership of the Indian Parliament (Rajya Sabha), and his work there are also being deposited in the **Abhilekhagar**.

His personal correspondence with various eminent historians, famous **litterateur** and other notabilities of the age will also now here-after be preserved in the **Abhilekhagar**. These include letters from Sir Jadunath Sarkar (which have all been published in the book '**Making of a Princely Historian**'), Dr. Gauri Shankar Ojha, Dr. J. Ph. Vogel, W. H. Moreland, Professor Mohammad Habib, Dr. Herman Goetz, Dr. G.S. Sardesai, Jaya Chandra Vidyalkar, Dr. Bhagwan Das (Varanasi), Professor K. A. Nilkanta Sastri,



Dr. S. N. Prasad, New Delhi, at Shri Keshav Das Abhilekhagar

Dr. R. C. Majumdar, Jai Shankar Prasad, Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi, Pt. Ram chandra Shukla, Thakur Gopal Sharan Singh, Rai Krishna Das, Jainendra Kumar Jain, Sudarshan, Prem Chand, Chatursen Shastri, Sumitra Nandan Pant, Banarsi Das Chaturvedi, Dr. Moti Chandra and many other luminaries of the literary or historical worlds of more than half a century. This collection also includes files relating to the **Bharatiya Itihas Parishad** founded by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sir Jadunath Sarkar and Jaya Chandra Vidyalankar for the rewriting of Indian History with a new scientific historical outlook, which was the unfortunate casualty of the achieving of Independence.

This a real effort is being made to collect here in this **Adhilekhagar** copies too, where originals can not possibly be acquired, of important documents relating to the grants or other happenings, in this region during the XVIIth and following centuries, so as to make this **Abhilekhagar** an important regional repository of such old contemporary documents or authenticated copies there of relating to this region in particular.

The **Samsthan** possesses all necessary equipment for making micro-films here in Sitamau, viz. Leica 200 Camera, the requisite stand and other essential accessories for providing necessary light for taking the micro-films. Some thirty years ago quite a few Persian manuscripts were successfully micro-filmed in Sitamau. The processing of the same was then entrusted to a Bombay firm. This equipment can now by usefully utilised in securing micro-film copies of important documents and manuscripts in private custody in this region, which can not possibly be acquired permanently.

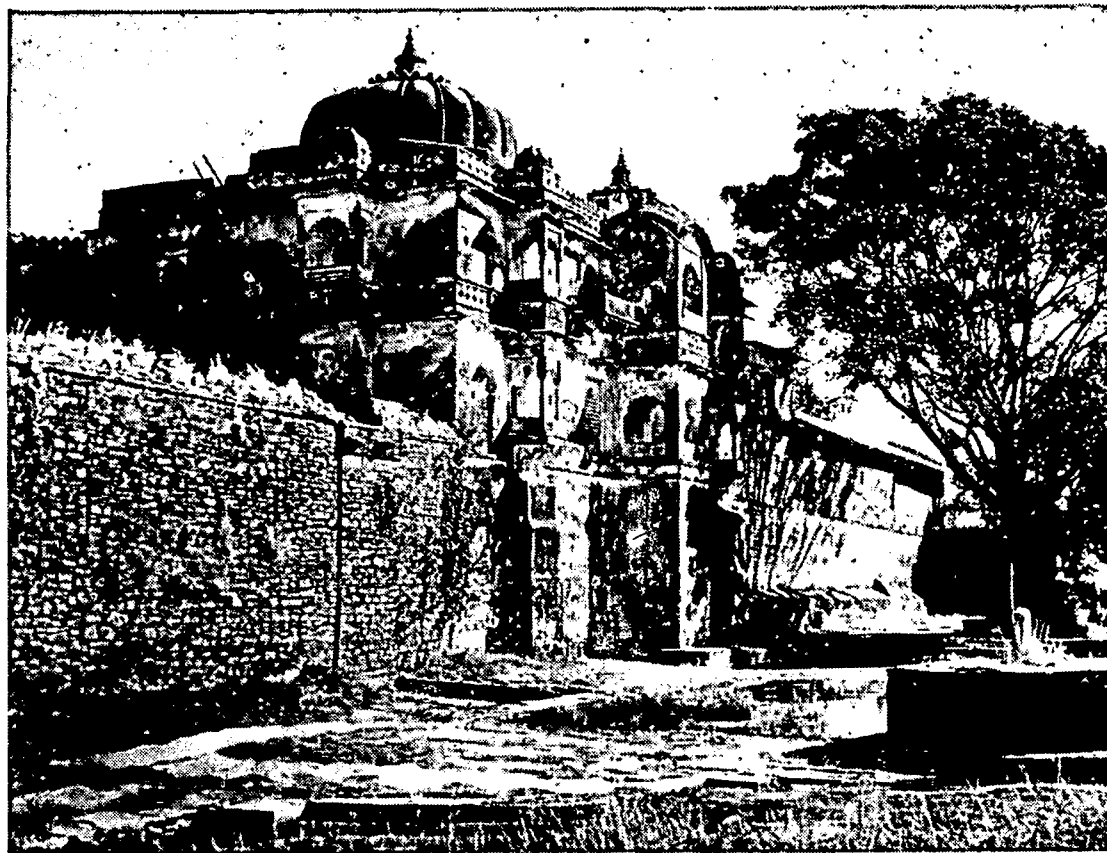
As was originally planned at the very outset, the third component unit of the **Samsthan**, **Shri Raj Singh Sangrahalaya** (Museum), is also going to be established before very long with the necessary collaboration and full support of the Archaeological Department of the

Madhya Pradesh Government. This **Sangrahalaya** is going to be housed in the 'Raj Niwas' Garh Palace at Laduna (Sitamau), built during the early decades of the XVIIIth century A.D. on the bank of the extensive Laduna tank, which thus provides a very picturesque setting to the **Sangrahalaya**.

It is proposed to develop this **Sangrahalaya** so as to represent therein the art and architecture of Malwa with particular reference to the **Dashpur (Mandsaur) Mandal**. Special efforts are being made to enrich Dr. Raghubir Singh's present collection of coins with special emphasis on the coins of the Malwa region and those of the former Indian States of this tract. All possible efforts are going to be made to collect in this **Sangrahalaya** the stampages as well as the authentic texts of the (various noteworthy inscriptions in Malwa, particularly of the) **Dashpur Mandal** and its neighbouring regions.

This Raj-Niwas Garh Palace at Laduna was not only the summer resort of the Rulers of the erst-while Sitamau State, but was the main official residence of the Rulers of the Sitamau State during the difficult decades of the Century of Anarchy in Malwa, and all the more so during the 'gardi ka waqt'. It is the birth-place of Maharaj-Kumar Ratan Singh 'Natnagar' after whom the **Samsthan** is named.

Shri Raghubir Library, Sitamau, had the honour of making available to Sir Jadunath Sarkar many important mss., their photostats or photo-prints, when he was writing the last two volumes of his 'Fall of the Mughal Empire'. Similarly eminent historians like Dr. Ishwari Prasad, Dr. G.S. Sardesai, Dr. Herman Goetz, Dr. Ganda Singh, and good many others have also availed of the unique collection available here in Sitamau. Research Scholars supplicating for their Ph.D. or D. Litt. degrees in almost all well-reputed Indian Universities, from far or near, including those from the Universities of Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Bombay, Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru



The Raj-Niwas Garh Palace, Laduna (Sitamau), where 'Shri Raj Singh Sangrahalaya' is being established

University (New Delhi), Lucknow, Poona, Rajasthan (Jaipur), Vikram (Ujjain), and Vishwabharati (Santiniketan), have been coming down to Sitamau time and again for last thirty years and more for collection of relevant information from the vast mass of primary source-materials available in Shri Raghbir Library, Sitamau, for their theses or other historical works. Eminent foreign historians like Dr. J. Ph. Vogel of Kern Institute, Leiden (Holland), and Dr. Gauri Shankar Hirachand Ojha had sought assistance of Dr. Raghbir Singh in connection with some of their important historical works. Few foreign scholars from the U.S.A. too have visited Sitamau and collected much useful material here. A list of some such noteworthy historians and research scholars, who have so utilised Shri Raghbir Library, Sitamau, for their historical studies and collection of materials here is given in Appendix No. 2. Several letters from various researchers, historians and others interested in historical studies are received for eliciting historical information, seeking clarification of some obscure matters or advice on any intricate problems and difficulties connected with hisiorical details, which are duly and promptly replied.

7. Dr. A. B. Lal the former Vice-Chancellor of the Rajasthan University, (Jaipur), and a veteran educationalist, is at present the Chairman of the **Madhya Pradesh Uchcha Shiksha Anudan Ayog, Bhopal**. He visited the **Samsthan** on Feb. 25, 1977, when he had a careful look at all its component units then in existence, and also did his best to know fully all about the working and activities of the Samsthan. His detailed report on Shri Natnagar Shodh-Samsthan, Sitamau, is given in extenso as **Appendix No. 3**.
8. Shri Natnagar Shodh-Samsthan, Sitamau has already been duly recognised as a Research Institution by the Universities of Nagpur, Poona, Raipur, Rajasthan, Rewa and Vikram (Ujjain), while similar recognitions from many others is expected in near future. Hence research scholars in these and many other universities are visiting

Sitamau for collection of information for their theses from the vast mass of source-materials in the custody of the **Samsthan**, which is being increasingly enriched by further additions and more acquisitions even now.

The Founder Director (Honorary), Dr. Raghubir Singh is readily available to researchers visiting the **Samsthan** to guide and help their researches in Sitamau as before. He is also a duly recognised guide for the Ph.D. Degree for some universities. There is a set of competent regular staff of the **Samsthan**, which would readily help the researchers, when so desired.

The competent regular staff of the **Samsthan** is young, energetic and dedicated to the cause of Indian History, and it is being further duly trained in the highest traditions and norms of historical research as laid down by Sir Jadunath Sarkar. A specially planned programme of historical researches, translations of important historical original sources, and editing of these as well as other primary source-materials is being carried out at the **Samsthan**. Particular research projects are also being taken up from the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for being implemented here under the direction and guidance of Dr. Raghubir Singh by persons specially appointed for that purpose. One such research project was completed in 1976, while another one is now in progress here.

EMINENT HISTORIANS OF INDIA
ON
SHRI RAGHUBIR LIBRARY, SITAMAU

1. ACHARYA JADUNATH SARKAR

"A glorious future for the province (of Malwa), in one particular branch of historical studies at least, has been made possible by a library now in course of rapid growth, of which the world knows nothing. It is the Raghubir Library located at Sitamau. He (Dr. Raghubir Singh) has built this library up by judicious planning, expert advice and alert watching for rare books as they come into the market in Europe.

"The result so far achieved is highly creditable as will be seen from the following hand-list. The Raghubir Library is unique in the world for the completeness of its sources on the medieval history of India. Nowhere else can one find all these materials in one place. In one particular but most valuable section, the **akhbarat** or hand-written news-letters in Persian extending from 1659 to 1830 A. D. and the administrative records of the Jaipur State and the Peshwas' Government, written in 'Dingal and Persian, the Raghubir collection is sure to attract students of these branches from all Parts of the world.

"The Raghubir Library has specialised in the history of the Delhi Padishahs and the local dynasties of Malwa, Gujrat and Rajputana, to the point of exhaustion. Also the numerous letters-books of the officers who in that age always employed Persian

secretaries, whether Hindu or Muslim. For the last half of the 18th century even more valuable than the Persian sources, are the Marathi records and letters. The Raghbir Library has purchased all of this class available in print, besides several important manuscript collection, such as the Athelye, and the Gulgule and a few other family archives of historical interest.

“The English collection, which is constantly growing up, contains many necessary but extremely scarce work.

“No Indian, in particular, will be pardoned if he neglects this collection at our door, and then complains of the lack of original sources in India as an excuse for his idleness or shoddy work in field of Indian historical studies.

“If ever a central Institute of History is set up in free India, the Raghbir collection will be its indispensable nucleus, Before that ideal takes shape, the University of Malwa cum Rajputana can not do any research work in the immediate past of our land unless it fully utilised the Raghbir Library.

(Introduction, Hand List of Important Historical Mss.

in the Raghbir Library, Sitamau, ed. by Dr. Raghbir Sinh, 1949).

“The largest collection of Persian news-Letters of all classes in photostat or transcript is to be found in the Raghbir Library of Sitamau in Malwa. Here has been brought together everything that could be copied from every known Library else where in the world”.

(Sources, **Fall of the Mughal Empire**, Vol. IV., p. 351. by Jadunath Sarkar, 1950).

"A very rich library of sources has been created at Sitamau (Malwa) by its enlightened prince Maharaj Kumar Dr. Raghubir Singh, D. Litt., LL. B., where medieval and modern Indian History is fully represented in the form of mss., books and micro-films of the treasures of the British Museum and the I.O. Library (London), besides costly reference work. Scholars can freely use them".

(Message of Sir Jadunath Sarkar to Indian Historians. **Life and letter of Sir Jadunath Sarkar**, ed. by H. R. Gupta, 1958. Panjab University, India).

2. Dr. KALIKA RANJAN QANUNGO (DACCA & LUCKNOW)

"For researches in Indo-Muslim history, Dr. Raghubir Singh library is admittedly a self-contained institution, better even than Jadunath's own Library".

(**Historical Studies**, by K. R. Quango, p. 155, 1960).

3. Dr. HARI RAM GUPTA, (PANJAB - INDIA).

"The Raghubir Library is the result of patient and unostentatious labours extending over two decades The Library is stocked not only with published work bearing on the history of Malwa, but also contains abundant source-material for reconstructing the history of that region in recent times in the form of manuscripts in Persian, Hindi and Marathi as well as bardic compositions. The Library has also acquired a vast mass of original documents on Maratha history known as the *Athale* and *Gulgule dafters*, which are a store house of information for the history of the Maratha chieftains and diplomats in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries".

(Editorial Note on p. 281, **Essays presented to Sir Jadunath Sarkar**, ed. by H. R. Gupta, 1958).

4. PROF. N.B. ROY, (VISVA BHARATI, SANTINIKETAN)

"A splendid collection of books and manuscripts bearing mainly on

medieval Indian history.A Library which bids fair to become a Central Institute for Madhya-Bharat. Students willing to resuscitate the lost chapters of history will be obliged to visit the Raghbir Library for its wealth of rare manuscript on Malwa and contemporary history of Gujrat. For the history of pre-Mughal period the Raghbir Library has got all the printed Persian texts published by the Asiatic society of Calcutta and complete set of its journals, with transcripts of rare works.

“The uniqueness of this library lies, however, in the exceptionally rich hoard of manuscripts for reconstructing the history of latter half of the seventeenth century and the whole of the eighteenth. On account of the assemblage of a mass of manuscript sources in these languages as well as in Persian, the Raghbir Library has become a centre of attraction for all student of pre-British India.”

(Essays presented to Sir Jadunath Sarkar. ed. by H.R. Gupta, pp. 281-283, 1958, Panjab University, India).

Appendix No. 2.

List of some Noteworthy Historians, who utilised Shri Raghbir Library, Sitamau, for their D. Litt. or Ph. D. Theses and other Historical works.

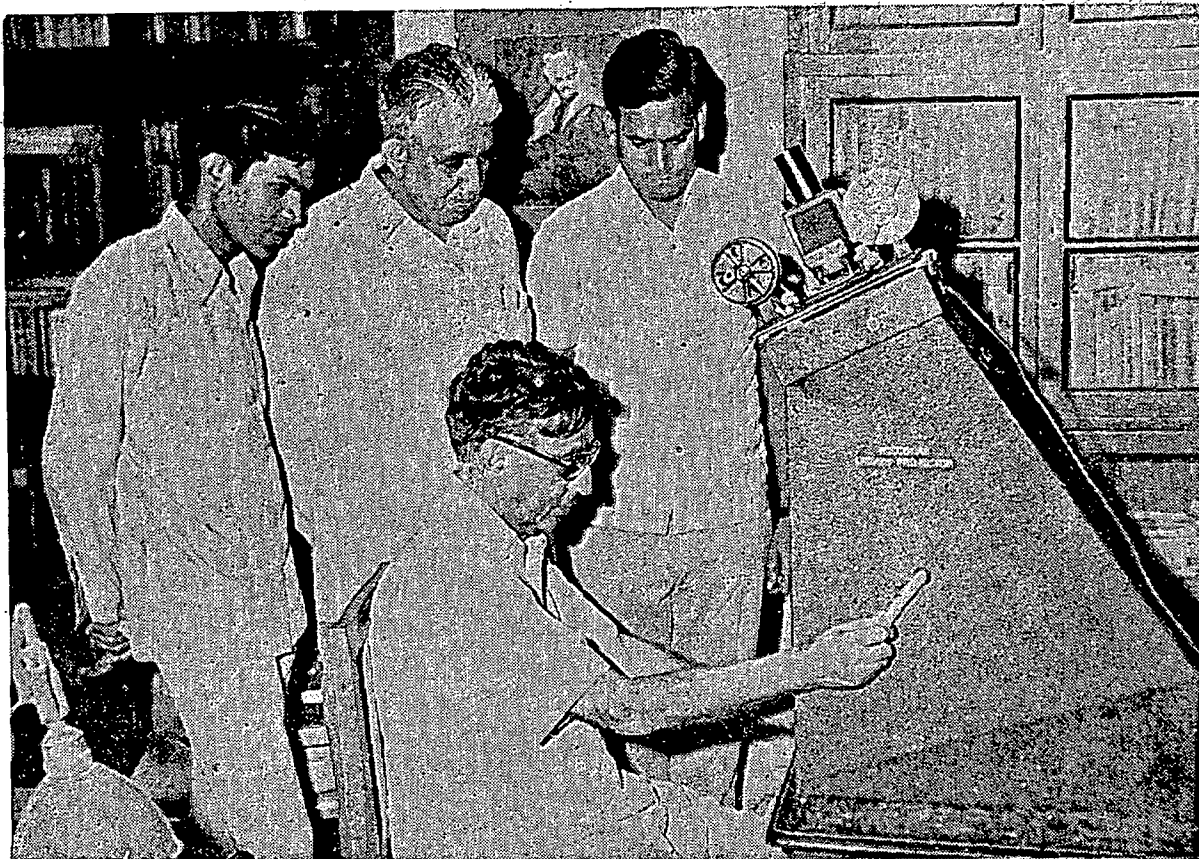
1. Dr. SIR JADUNATH SARKAR (Calcutta) for his work '**Fall of the Mughal Empire**', Vols. III & IV.
2. Dr. HARI RAM GUPTA (in 1939 when at the Foreman Christian College, Lahore), for his work '**History of the Sikhs (1769-1799 Cis-Sutlej)**'.
3. Dr. ISHWARI PRASAD (of Allahabad) for his work '**The Life and Times of Humayun**'.
4. Dr. SHANTI PRASAD VARMA (later at Udaipur and Jaipur), for his D. Litt. Thesis in the Agra University on '**Anglo-Maratha Relations 1772-1783 A. D.**'
5. Dr. SATISH CHANDRA (now chairman of U.G.C.), for his Ph. D. Thesis in the Allahabad University on '**Parties and politics at the Mughal Court 1707-1740 A. D.**'
6. Dr. CHANDRA BHUSHAN TRIPATHI, Professor and Head of the Allahabad University, for his Ph.D. Thesis in the Allahabad University on '**Life and Times of Mirza Raja Jai Singh**'.
7. Dr. SURAJ NARAIN RAO (of Sangrur), for his Ph. D. Thesis in the Panjab University on '**Cis-Sutlej States 1800-1848 A. D.**'

8. Dr. NIROD BHUSHAN ROY (Vishwa-Bharati, Santiniketan) for his work '**Niamatullah's History of the Afghans**' and his unfinished work on '**Fairuz Shah Tughlaq**'.
9. Dr. GANDA SINGH (of Patiala) for his Ph. D. Thesis on '**Ahamad Shah Durani**' in the Panjab University, Chandigarh.
10. Dr. SATISH CHANDRA MISRA (M. S. University of BARODA) for his studies in the **History of the Gujrat Sultanate** and that of **Sher Shah**.
11. Dr. BHAGWAN DAS GUPTA (of Jhansi), for his Ph. D. and D. Litt. Theses in the University of Lucknow on '**Life and Time of Maharaja Chhatra Sal Bundela**', and '**The History of Bundelkhand under the Maratha Domination (1731-1804)**' respectively.
12. Dr. ZAHIRUDDIN MALIK (Aligarh Muslim University), for his Ph. D. Thesis in the Aligarh Muslim University on '**Muhammad Shah (1719-1748 A. D)**'.
13. Dr. SATYA PRAKASH SENGAR (the Panjab University Chandigarh), for his Ph. D. Thesis in the Poona University on '**Crime and Punishment in Mughal India**'.
14. Dr. ATHAR ALI (Aligarh Muslim University), for his Ph. D. Thesis in the Aligarh Muslim University on '**The Mughal Nobility under Aurangzib**'.
15. Dr. K. S. Lal (Jodhpur University) for his work '**Twilight of the Sultanate**'.
16. Dr. DEVI LAL PALIWAL (Sahitya-Samasthan, Udaipur) for his Ph.D. Thesis on '**Udaipur and the British (1857-1919)**'.

17. Dr. V. S. BHARGAVA (Govt. College, Ajmer) for his Ph. D. Thesis **'Marwar and the Mughal Emperors'**.
18. SHRI BRAHMADEV PRASAD AMBASTHYA (Research Fellow K. P. Jayaswal Institute, Patna), for his D. Litt. Thesis (in Progress) in the Patna University on **'The Subah of Bihar under Akbar'**.
19. Dr. GIRISH CHANDRA DWIVEDI (Kashi Vidya Peetha, Varanasi), for his Ph. D. Thesis in the Agra University on **'The History of the Jats upto 1763 A.D.'**
20. Dr S.B.P. NIGAM (Reader, Kurukshetra University) for his work **Sur Vamsha Ka Itihas'.**
21. Dr. SURENDRA NATH SINHA, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for his Ph. D. Thesis in the Allahabad University on **'Subah of Allahabad under the Great Mughals (1580-1707)'**.
22. SHRI G. H. KHARE AND Dr. G. T. KULKARNI of the Bharat Itihas Samshodhak Mandal, Poona, for their work **'Aurangzeb chya Darbar che Akhbar'**.
23. Dr. S. S. KULSHRESHTHA, U. G. C. Professor at Modinagar (U. P.) for his work on **'Development of Trade and Industries under the Mughals (1707-1761)'**.
24. Dr. TARASHANKAR BANERJEE (Vishwa-Bharati, Santiniketan) for his D. Litt. Thesis (in progress) at the Calcutta University on **'The Pindaris'**.
25. Dr. Smt. KAMAL GOKHALE (S. N. D. T. College, Poona) for her Ph. D. Thesis in the University of Bombay on **(Shiv-Putra Shambhaji)'**.

mostly by the singlehanded efforts of Dr. Raghubir Singh himself who is an acknowledged historian of the country. There are approximately 1,000 manuscripts in the Library - about 300 of which are in Rajasthani, 250 in Persian and 300 represent the old collection of Sitamau on various subjects including Poetry, Religion and Astrology. The oldest manuscript dates back to 1658 A.D. The Library also has about 5,000 letters in Sanskrit, Hindi and Marathi. Recently Dr. Raghubir Singh has acquired several valuable manuscripts from Rajasthan at a price of Rs. 10,000.00. Besides these, the Library has the **Gulgule Daftar** of Kota, the **Athale Daftar** and the Dhar Collection. Much of this material has not yet been published, but I was glad to know that the Govt. of Maharashtra has agreed to publish some of these papers, which have great value for historical research.

4. Apart from these books and manuscripts the Library has about 1,00,000 micro-film openings - taken from the British Museum, the India Office Library, the Bodleian Library and some from France and elsewhere. There is a good collection of photo-prints, and also there are micro-films of about 30,000 documents from Poona. There are also a number of copper plates and about 700 coins (gold, Silver and copper) in this collection.
5. Amongst the collection of Newspapers there are old files of **Malwa Akhbar** for 12 years - and this is a rare possession now.
6. This Library has been used by a number of distinguished professors and scholars; many of whom worked for their doctorate here (a list of 14 distinguished scholars who worked here is given in **Appendix A**). Sir Jadunath Sarkar, one of the most distinguished historians of India, who visited Sitamau (and under whose guidance Dr. Raghubir Singh attained his distinctive place as a historian) has given his opinion about this library. According to him this Library is indispensable



Shri Surya Narain Sharma, Special correspondent of the Hindustan Times, Bhopal, watching the working of the micro-film Library projector

for research work on Malwa and Rajputana, especially for the 17th and 18th centuries. He describes it as **“unique in the world for the completeness of its sources on the medieval history of India”**. He goes on to say that “if a Central Institute of History is set up in free India, Dr. Raghubir Singh’s collection will be its indispensable nucleus.” Similar views have been expressed by Dr. K.R. Qanungo, Dr. Hari Ram Gupta, Prof. N.B. Roy of Vishwa Bharati and others.

7. The Library has a Micro-film Reader. It is noteworthy that the Micro-film Reader is the first one in India to be imported in 1938.

The Maharaj Kumar has, moreover, installed complete equipment in an outhouse behind the Library for making micro-films. This is a great facility for researchers who may not be able to make a prolonged stay in Sitamau.

8. **SHRI KESHAVADAS ABHILEKHAGAR (ARCHIVES).** These Archives which at present are located in the old palace inside the Sitamau fortress consist of the State records of Sitamau and a number of published books, reports, gazettes etc. There are about 700 **“bastas”** containing thousands of documents, 3,000 **“bahis”** and 2500 registers. The English Office files of Sitamau contain the records of the State for 50 years. They have yet to be filed properly. The **“bastas”** require to be sorted out and much valuable material may be found in them for writing the social, economic and political history of the region. A careful study of these Archives will enable any researcher to know how a small State “with full powers” in this region functioned. This collection includes Govt. of India Gazettes, Administration Reports and State Gazettes of various former Indian States, Parliamentary Reports (Indian Parliament) for 10 years, old magazines from 1920 onwards, Gazetteers of various States of India, volumes of the **Asiatic Annual Register** and so on. Altogether there are about 1,350 printed books, 300

Gazettes of different States and 450 English Office files of Sitamau. There is a set of Aurangzeb's **Akhbarat-e-Darbar-e-Mualia**. According to Sir Jadunath Sarkar this is the most complete set in the world. There are also certain confidential papers like **Tanka** receipts available in the Archives - and these may be helpful in reconstructing the social and economic history of the region. All this material, however, needs sorting out and cataloguing; and steps have to be taken for its preservation in a scientific manner.

9. The Indian Council of Historical Research entrusted one project to this institution and it has been completed. Another project has now been received from the same source and funds to the extent of Rs. 25,000.00 have been provided for this purpose.
10. Maharaj Kumar Dr. Raghubir Singh himself is working as Director in an honorary capacity. Maharaj Kumar Dr. Raghubir Singh, D.Litt is well known as a historian and man of letters (Hindi). He has presided over History Conferences and is a Guide or Supervisor approved by many Universities for guiding Ph.D. Scholars. Ph.D. and D. Litt. theses concerned with this period (17th and 18th centuries) are sent to him for examination. The **Samsthan** is lucky to have the benefit of being directed by him. There are at present three researchers at Sitamau doing their Ph.D., including Shri Manohar Singh Ranawat, who is working as Research Officer. Dr. Shiv Dutt Dan is a senior Research Assistant and he has specialised in Rajasthani. More staff is needed for Marathi and possibly for Persian. At present there is a Persian Maulvi who comes regularly to read, translate and help in the collection of Persian manuscripts. Besides, there are some peons who have passed their Higher Secondary examination and are able to help with copying papers.
11. The Library is housed at present in Dr. Raghubir Singh's own palace, but another hall for reading purposes is needed. Both for the Library and the Archives, it is necessary to provide some racks and

almirahs. It is likely that the U.G.C. may grant some funds on an **ad hoc** basis. But a Research Samsthan of this kind requires a regular grant. For researchers from Universities or Colleges it is necessary to have a hostel where they can come and stay, because in Sitamau there is no hostel or private accommodation available. Dr. Raghbir Singh is trying to acquire the Rajput Hostel for this purpose. This Hostel has 16 rooms and may suffice for the time being. The Archives also require furniture and material for the preservation and restoration of old manuscripts and papers. Some scholarships may also be instituted for deserving scholars.

12. The future work of the Samsthan will include

- (a) completing the classification or cataloguing of books, reports, publications, etc. in Shri Raghbir Library,
- (b) Similar classification and cataloguing of manuscripts, micro-films,
- (c) Sorting out and filing of papers in the Archives and preparing an Index,
- (d) Taking steps for the effective preservation of records,
- (e) Continuing efforts to locate and purchase or acquire manuscripts, **Khyats, bahis**, records or State papers in the possession of families of ex-rulers or their **Charans** or priests or other individuals,
- (f) trying to get state papers or records relating to this period by the State Govt. from former rulers and now lying uncared for in the State Archives,

(g) expanding its research and consultancy services. It is understood that the State records and papers of former princely State are lying in the State Archives. Full use of this material can be made for purposes of historical research if they are handed over to this Shodh Samsthan; otherwise they are in danger of being lost through prolonged inattention. All this work requires funds, and it is desirable that an adequate sum of money be earmarked in the budget every year for the search and purchase of such historical material relating to the 17th and 18th centuries not only in M. P. but also in adjoining states.

13. The question may arise whether the Shodh Samsthan should not be located in a more central or easily accessible place. But it has to be borne in mind that now Sitamau has come to be known among historians as an important centre of research. Moreover, this Shodha Samsthan is also a living tribute to the life work of Maharaj Kumar Dr. Raghubir Singh - and, therefore, it would be doing violence to the Institution itself to think of its being located elsewhere.

14. In this report I do not find it necessary to discuss the budget or finances of the Shodh Samsthan. The budget for 1976-77 was framed in the light of the anticipated income for this year but it is clear that as the activities of the Institution expand it will need more funds, and that its activities can expand only to the extent that funds are made available to it. Taking this year's budget as the base, and making "an enlightened guess" it is felt that to meet some of the needs mentioned in paras 11 and 12 the Samsthan may require Rs. 2.50 lakh per year in the near future.

15. Altogether my personal visit convinces me that the Library and the Archives constitute a valuable collection and deserve support from

the State Govt. and fullest cooperation from the Universities of India. All students of medieval history and early modern history of India (particularly the history of Malwa and Rajputana) have necessarily to draw upon the resources of this Library. A number of universities including Vikram University, Rajasthan University, A.P.S. University Rewa, and Nagpur University have already given it recognition. It is "affiliated" to Vikram and Rajasthan Universities. Ravi Shanker University, Raipur, has accepted the membership of the Samsthan and Poona and Lucknow Universities have also agreed to collaborate. I, therefore, feel that.

(i) a liberal grant from the State Govt. for this Shodh Samsthan will be amply justified and.

(ii) that all Universities in India would be well advised to include this Samsthan in their list of approved research centres, research work at which would be considered as work or attendance in the University itself.

16. I am not quite clear about the possibility or desirability of any Institution being "affiliated" to more than one University. This Shodh Samsthan is located within the jurisdiction of Vikram University, and is "affiliated" to it; in other words, it can directly enrol students for Ph.D. or D. Litt. with the approval of the University. As such it comes within the scope of the **M.P. Uchcha Shiksha Anudan Ayog Adhiniyam**. The State Govt. can also permit any other University in the State to "affiliate" this Institution U/S 7 (i) of the Vishwavidyalaya Adhiniyam. But I feel that one Institution should be affiliated to one University only. That is why my recommendation is as in paragraph 15 (ii) above, viz, that all other Universities in M.P. and outside M.P. may include this Samsthan in their list of "approved research centres", and this list may form a part of Regulations under Ph.D. and D. Litt. Ordinances.

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